

worked with the following people: Louis Slay, Director Supervisor U.S. Dept. of Justice; Anthony Sporanza, Special Agent FBI; Mike Cizmar, Special Agent FBI; Pete Proach, Special Agent FBI; Wally Sines, Special Agent FBI; and Dennis Drenzo, Agent BCI & I

(3) During the hereinabove written time period I was primarily a paid informant for the FBI and my FBI Code Name was Cheeze 1. My main FBI contact was Special Agent Mike Cizmar.

(4) During the hereinabove written time period, FBI Special Agent Mike Cizmar related the following to me:

(a) Congressman Jim Traficant was the FBI's number one target across the United States because he beat them in a Federal Court in Cleveland, Ohio in 1983 and that he was an embarrassment to the FBI.

(b) The FBI investigated Jim Traficant from the time he was the Mahoning County Sheriff and that the FBI was going to get him one way or another.

(c) When you go to Quantico, Virginia there is one special class you take and that's on getting Jim Traficant.

(d) If I got Jim Traficant, they would build a monument for me in Washington, D.C.

FBI Special Agent Anthony Sporanza also made statements in support of the hereinabove written.

(5) Within the hereinabove written time period FBI Special Agent Mike Cizmar asked me to kill Girard, Ohio Police Detective Anthony Zuppo.

Further Affiant Sayeth Naught.

TRIBUTE TO WESLEY RHODES

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor Wesley Rhodes of Pineview, GA. Wesley, a student at Fullington Academy, was named a National Award Winner in Science. This special award recognizes fewer than ten percent of all American high school students. Wesley was recommended for the award by teachers and school staff for his outstanding academic performance in science, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship, attitude and cooperative spirit, and dependability.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Wesley for his achievements in science and for his exemplary leadership at Fullington Academy. He is an exceptional student and has made the people of my district and myself proud.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4577) making ap-

propriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Service, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chairman, reducing fraud and abuse in Medicare has been identified by the Majority Leader as a major initiative. The Budget Committee has a Medicare Fraud Task Force to look into ways to reduce Medicare fraud. The Ways and Means and Commerce Committee has held hearings on reducing Medicare fraud.

And yet, this bill would actually reduce already appropriated funds for fighting fraud and abuse in Medicare by \$50 million. These funds were appropriated in advance when the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) was enacted in 1996 and intended to fight Medicare fraud. This program has returned \$17 for every dollar invested in it. Because of our fraud-fighting efforts, we have experienced the lowest growth in Medicare spending ever.

Obviously, the Appropriations Committee disagrees with the Majority Leader and other Committee Chairmen who want to reduce Medicare fraud. Instead, the Committee would reduce our anti-fraud efforts. Evidently, the Committee feels that there is not enough fraud in Medicare, so we should let it grow.

Second, Mr. Chairman, the General Accounting Office and others have issued numerous reports recently about the alarming abuses and poor quality of care of senior citizens in nursing homes—the care of our mothers and fathers and our constituents. GAO said that one in four nursing homes actually harm our senior citizens or place them in danger of being harmed. The GAO recommended stronger enforcement of quality standards.

In Northern California, only 6 percent of nursing homes were found by State inspectors to be in full or substantial compliance with requirements.

The President proposed additional funding to support a Nursing Home Initiative for enforcing nursing home standards more strictly.

Yet this bill would eliminate the funding for this Nursing Home Initiative.

Obviously, the Appropriations Committee simply does not care what happens to our senior citizens in nursing homes.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support the DeLauro amendment to restore funds for fighting Medicare fraud and for the Nursing Home Initiative.

Mr. Chairman, I submit into the RECORD a letter sent to me by the National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform.

NATIONAL CITIZENS' COALITION
FOR NURSING HOME REFORM,
Washington, DC, June 1, 2000.

Hon. FORTNEY "PETE" STARK,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE STARK: The National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform (NCCNHR) urges you to vote no on the Labor/HHS/Education bill because it fails to provide funding for the Nursing Home Initiative.

The Nursing Home Initiative was established to increase funding for improvement in nursing home quality nationwide. As part of the Nursing Home Initiative, new survey protocols were put in place such as improved federal oversight over state survey efforts, staggered inspections, and expedited investigation of resident complaints.

For FY 2001, the Administration proposed a major funding increase that would invest \$70.1 million in improving oversight of nursing homes. It would include (1) training surveyors in effective inspection of nursing homes; (2) surveying nursing homes during evenings and weekends; and (3) surveying substandard facilities more frequently than other facilities. However, in Subcommittee, the discretionary funding was virtually eliminated for the Initiative.

By passing an appropriations bill without funding for the Nursing Home Initiative, the House would be ignoring overwhelming evidence of harm to residents that is occurring because of lack of adequate enforcement. The 1998 GAO report on California nursing homes showed that one in three facilities has violations that cause either actual harm to residents or place them at risk for serious injury or death. This report launched the Nursing Home Initiative to address the poor care in nursing homes. We cannot abandon these efforts, which are now beginning to have an effect. Otherwise, we are abandoning the most vulnerable and frail population in this country who need protection from a strengthened enforcement system.

Sincerely,

SARAH GREENE BURGER,
Executive Director.

STATEMENT ON A BILL TO AMEND TITLE II OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT TO IMPROVE THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION'S PAYMENT SYSTEM FOR REPRESENTATION OF CLAIMANTS

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to join with Congressman CLAY SHAW, the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Security, to introduce legislation regarding fees owed to attorneys who represent Social Security disability claimants. This bill would require the Social Security Administration to pay the attorney fees it owes in a timely fashion or else grant those attorneys an exemption from the administrative assessment that SSA charges in exchange for handling such fees.

Under current law, when an attorney successfully represents a Social Security disability claimant and that claimant is entitled to past-due benefits, SSA retains a portion of those past-due benefits in order to pay the attorney for the services he or she provided. Specifically, SSA withholds and certifies for direct payment to the claimant's attorney an amount equal to the lesser of 25 percent of the past-due benefits or the fee that SSA had previously authorized the attorney to charge his or her client. (Fees authorized by SSA may not exceed 25 percent of past-due benefits or \$4,000, whichever is lower).

As a result of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Act of 1999 (P.L. 106-170), SSA is now required to impose an administrative assessment of 6.3 percent on all such fee payments to attorneys. Some maintain that this 6.3 percent assessment is necessary to cover the costs that SSA incurs in withholding and processing fee payments to attorneys. If this is indeed the case and the 6.3 percent assessment is simply compensation for services rendered, then it is not unreasonable to expect